

MANAAKI KAIMAI MAMAKU TRUST

Pūrongo ā-Tau | Annual Report 2024





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FOREWORD

FROM OUR CO-CHAIRS

He honore he korōria ki te Atua, he maungarongo ki te whenua, he whakaaro pai ki ngā tāngata katoa, E rere ana ngā mihi ki a Kingi Tuheitia Pootatau Te Wherowhero te Tuawhitu kua riro ki te pō. Okioki atu rā e Te Ariki i te rangimārie. He mihi ki tō tātou Kuini, a Nga Wai Hono i te Po ki runga i tōna ahurewa tapu. E ara e! Pai marire!

We are pleased to present Manaaki Kaimai Mamaku Trust's Annual Report for the 2023/2024 financial year. We have had another productive year and continue to be inspired by the tremendous work undertaken by our Executive Team and Project Teams.

Together, the Kaimai Mamaku Restoration Project has achieved demonstrable outcomes that bring us closer to our vision of a thriving Kaimai Mamaku. We applaud our project teams' impactful work; the strengthening of collective skill and expertise; the connection of mana whenua to their special places; the increased capacity to exercise kaitiakitanga, utilising spoken and applied knowledge; and, importantly, the cost effectiveness of every dollar invested.

However, the resilience of the foundation built over the past four years will be tested as Jobs for Nature comes to a close. The current political environment places significant constraints on 'conservation' funding. This demands that the Trust not only collaborates with funders and builds on our collective strengths, but also explores longer term solutions to underpin our continued efforts to restore the Kaimai Mamaku.

The ensuing year will be critical for the Trust, taking inspiration from the diversity of our pae maunga | mountain range to deliver diverse and sustainable funding solutions that align with our aspirations. These uncertain times provide us all with the opportunity to re-think, re-imagine and prepare for the next steps. With Ngā Iwi Tōpu, we look forward to forging a closer working relationship as we navigate the way ahead.

Our CE has been steadfast in exploring opportunities for corporate investment in conservation and the advocacy role of MKMT in establishing an investment platform. While it may take time to build a successful funding model, not trying would be a travesty

to the pae maunga that has brought us together. Meanwhile, our team continues to actively advocate for the Kaimai Mamaku with partners and funders in the biodiversity space. In the words of Tā Henare, "Kua tawhiti kē tō haerenga mai, kia kore e haere tonu. He nui rawa ō mahi kia kore ai e mahi tonu - We have come too far, not to go further. We have done too much, not to do more".

In the past year, we farewelled four trustees: Mawera Karetai, Shaun Hodson, Norm Barker and Mokoro Gillett. We are thankful for the contribution and skill sets they shared, and we especially acknowledge the service of Mawera and Norm who were two of MKMT's five founding trustees. We were pleased to welcome new Waikato Community Trustees, Keri Neilson and Stu Kneebone, and Raukawa/Hauā/Hinerangi Roopu Trustee, James Whetu.

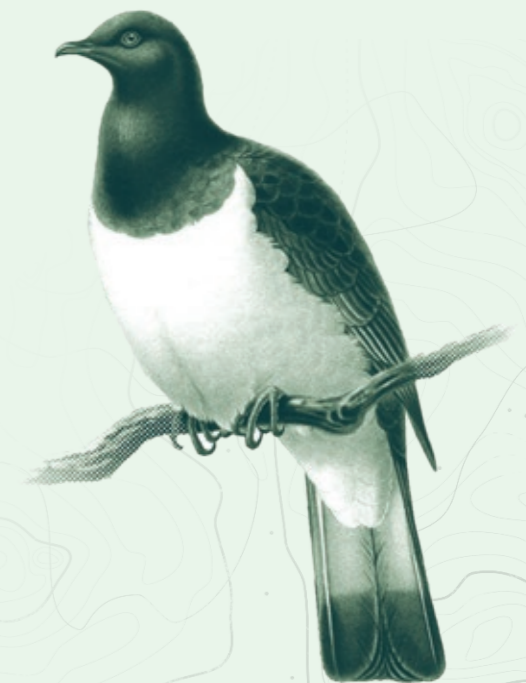
Thank you to our CE and staff for your dedication, working diligently to ensure our project teams are well supported and showcasing our collective work at every opportunity.

To our fellow trustees, thank you for your oversight, direction and commitment, nei ra te mihi mahana ki a koutou. We gratefully acknowledge our funders who value the collective impact of the Kaimai Mamaku Restoration Project and whose co-funding extends project durations. Finally, thank you to our Project Teams, whānau, hāpori, iwi, councils, other roopu and agencies who have supported our goals and the call for our pae maunga to be a living and breathing entity; thriving and abundant.

Nō reira, kia tau ngā manaakitanga o ō tātou tūpuna ki runga i a koutou katoa.



Josie Anderson and Norm Bruning



FROM OUR CEO

LOUISE SAUNDERS



Louise Saunders with MKMT patron Pa Ropata.

Credit: Adrienne Pitts, *Our Place* magazine.

Aotearoa NZ, and indeed the planet, sits at a crossroads. We are faced with incontrovertible evidence that climate change is accelerating, ecosystems and biodiversity are seriously threatened, and that these two phenomena are inextricably linked. In 2024, our country took only 102 days to overshoot its national demand for natural resources and ecosystem services. From April 11, we spent the rest of the year depleting resources and taxing ecosystems beyond their limits.

Conservation and science communities are despondent about slashed environment budgets and curtailed biodiversity programmes. Despite our international commitment to biodiversity and climate targets, policy responses are repeatedly framed as a binary choice between economic prosperity and ecosystems. This ignores the obvious truth that healthy economies depend on healthy environments, as evidenced by the ongoing economic impacts of events like Cyclone Gabrielle.

And yet, in spite of the uncertain outlook, we have hope. More than hopeful, we are excited! Our first year of operations was focused on establishment and processes and our second year on growth and outcomes. Our third year has focused on consolidation and strengthening our core. Co-governance is not an easy space, yet we have never shied away from tackling the hard stuff and the benefits of doing so are profound.

We ended this year with a very clear understanding of what works, what doesn't, and where to from here. What works is putting the needs of the kaupapa first, valuing everyone engaged in the mission, and working hard to align our expectations of one another. The collective impact of the Kaimai Mamaku Restoration Project is built on strong relationships, sharing and collaboration, and the collective will to succeed in spite of the challenges ahead.

We've had a brilliant year of successes across every aspect of our work, from kaimahi qualifications, team's nailing their targets for network deployment and achieving 0% RTI post toxin operation, to extending funding agreements and expanding project areas. Jobs for Nature funding and the generous support of TECT, BayTrust, and Rotorua Trust has provided a solid and supportive foundation without which we could not have achieved so much in such a short time.

But for the benefits of our work to be sustained and to scale up, it's clear that the conservation funding model is not fit for purpose. Although conservation action is so obviously essential for keeping the country afloat, we lack a funding model that appropriately values the people and work needed to sustain our ngahere and awa. Instead of expecting the system to change though, we're going to change the system and build a model that works.

Once again a heartfelt tēnā koutou and arohanui to our Trustees, Dani, Rebecca, Meschka and Brad, to our whānau at DOC, BOPRC, WRC and Bay Conservation Alliance, to our restoration whānau and partners across the Kaimai Mamaku motu, and to the kaimahi and kaitiaki of our project teams for the trust you place in us. The year ahead of us will demonstrate the strength of our collective and the power of our shared vision.

Ngā manaakitanga | best wishes, Louise.

ABOUT US

We harness the power of collective action and shared knowledge to restore the mauri of the Kaimai Mamaku. We do this through the Kaimai Mamaku Restoration Project (KMRP).

The Kaimai Mamaku thrives; hence we thrive

Assurance Provider

In 2023/24 we secured and managed \$5.2M of funding from 6 funders, delivered to 11 iwi-hapū led projects. We provide independent assurance for project practice, outcomes and integrity.

Capability Building

We provide targeted wānanga and ongoing capability building opportunities to meet the needs and focus areas of the KMRP teams. Day-to-day we help teams with advice, support and mentoring in specialist areas including budgeting, reporting, GIS and predator control.

Knowledge Sharing

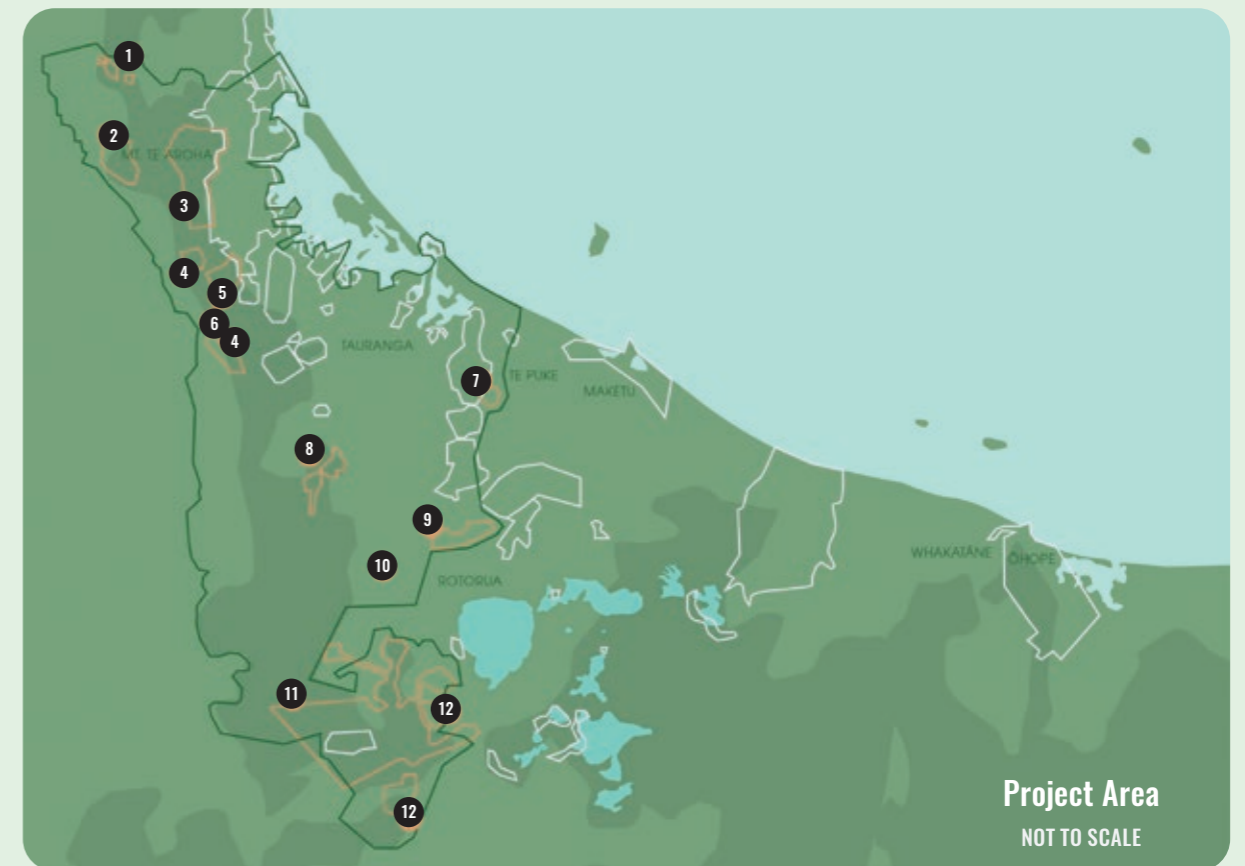
We continue to uphold respectful, inclusive and equitable collaboration. We affirm the importance of mātauranga | Māori knowledge and science to our stakeholders and the wider community.

Community Engagement

By speaking to, listening and engaging with our communities, we ensure our mahi truly reflects their needs. This continual two-way kōrero builds trust, transparency and shared ownership of our mission.



The Kaimai Mamaku is a taonga, a treasured place. It connects and enhances two regions, numerous iwi and hapū, conservation and recreation groups, and communities.



Kaimai Mamaku Restoration Projects

- Kaimai Mamaku Restoration Boundary
- 1 Hako Restoration
- 2 Tumutumu Kaitiaki Taiao
- 3 Kaimai Kauri
- 4 Wairere Mahi
- 5 Te Maire 2021
- 6 Te Mahuri
- 7 Otawa Waitaha e Hei
- 8 Nga Mata Hiringa
- 9 Te Wao Nui o Tapuika
- 10 Mangowera - Kaharoa Restoration Project
- 11 Kaimai Kaponga
- 12 Te Whakamaru o Horohoro
- Community Groups and other *Jobs for Nature* projects

Project Area
NOT TO SCALE

OUR IMPACT

2 REGIONS | 5 DISTRICTS | 300,000 HECTARES

WHY WE EXIST	WHAT WE DO	WHO WE DO IT FOR	IMPACTS
<p>RESTORE THE MAURI OF THE KAIMAI MAMAKU</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategically identify opportunities to improve the landscape. Advocate for and communicate the collective impact of the KMRP. Share knowledge widely and encourage collaboration to fast track success. Build the capability of kaimahi and teams to maximise effectiveness. Independent assurance provider for project practice, outcomes and integrity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kaimai Mamaku ngahere and catchments. Iwi and hapū-led projects. Investors and funders. The community. 	<p>PEOPLE AND PROJECTS ARE SUPPORTED</p> <p>Trained kaitiaki are in sustainable, purposeful employment. They share learnings and mātauranga between KMRP projects for continuous outcome improvement.</p> <p>INCREASED RESTORATION AND CONSERVATION ACTIVITY</p> <p>More projects take incrementally more effective restoration action to reduce pests, increase forest health, and connect corridors across the landscape.</p> <p>KMRP IS PUBLICLY RECOGNISED</p> <p>Engagement and collaboration leads to increased action, recognition of the conservation delivery model, and support through sustainable funding and investment.</p>



THIS YEAR

2023/24 FINANCIAL YEAR



TOTAL FIGURES TO DATE



*As at 26 Aug 2024

** 01 Apr 2022 - 30 June 2024, these hours do not include seconded staff, and the in kind contributions of agency staff working on this kaupapa.

OUR MAHI

This year, our major supporting activities included leading eDNA research, partnering with a scientist to develop a bespoke cultural monitoring tool, planning for the eradication of feral goats and external engagement.

eDNA Collection

Over the summer months, MKMT led the largest eDNA collection programme within the Kaimai Mamaku conservation park.

Thanks to funding from Environmental Protection Authority | Wai Tuwhera o te Taiao and the support of nine iwi-hapū conservation project groups, 31 WilderLab passive samplers were placed in targeted catchments across the landscape for 24-48 hours. This data was then combined with another 13 publicly available data sets, and critically analysed by our CEO, and ecologist, Louise Saunders. The full report was released in August 2024.

Next year, we will be undertaking 6-replicate sampling at an additional six sites to answer three specific questions: What conditions are needed for detecting bats? What is the sensitivity of single eDNA samples compared with 6-replicate samples at sites with very high and very low species richness? Can we use eDNA to detect change in species as a result of intensive pest animal control in native forest compared to non-control areas?

Read the full report on our website:
www.mkm.org.nz

Feral Goat Eradication

Feral goats strip the forest of palatable understorey, reducing biodiversity and impacting slope stability. They could also spread kauri disease, which is particularly concerning for our northern Kaimai kauri forests. Feral goat eradication is both feasible and widely supported.

With funding from Tiakina Kauri, this year we commissioned a high-level operational plan for the 'Kaimai Mamaku Goat Eradication Project'. The plan concluded that eradication is possible within four years, will result in significant long term cost savings and will eliminate goat impacts on biodiversity, kauri health and rural production.

We are now seeking funding to execute the eradication plan, which will run alongside the current feral goat control funding from Bay of Plenty Regional Council and DOC.

Ngahere Ora

Cultural monitoring is a holistic approach that acknowledges the profound spiritual, historical, and cultural connections that Māori have with te taiao | the environment.

This year, we commissioned Māori scientist Kiri Reihana to develop a bespoke digital tool "Ngahere Ora | Forest Health" with Te Maire 2021. This tool is one method to capture mātauranga observations, allowing kaitiaki to monitor the change in culturally significant indicators over time.

Te Maire 2021 plan to use the completed tool by the end of 2024.

Communications and Engagement

This year, we prioritised digital communications to reach a broader audience and raise awareness about our mahi and the Kaimai Mamaku Restoration Project. Through our website, social media and e-newsletter, we engaged with existing supporters and stakeholders and connected with new potential supporters.

On Facebook alone we reached over 30,000 unique people (10% of our total target audience) and our e-newsletter had an impressive 60% average open rate—double the global nonprofit average.

To continue engagement, collaboration and knowledge sharing with the Kaimai Mamaku communities, the MKMT office tīma also attended, spoke at or convened, more than 15 wānanga across the Bay of Plenty and Waikato.

Joint Agency Partnership

May 2020, the Joint Agency Partnership Committee was created between us, Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Department of Conservation and Waikato Regional Council.

The four partners meet quarterly to coordinate cross-agency funding, pest control operations and monitoring.

This year, the JAC delivered \$444,066 of funding through the Environmental Programme (EP) Agreement.

Read the full report on our website:
www.kaimai-mamaku.org.nz

Community Awareness Survey

Since the launch of the Kaimai Mamaku Restoration Project in 2021, local awareness of conservation issues grew in breadth and depth.

This year, we repeated our community awareness survey which showed around 90% of Kaimai Mamaku communities are now aware of conservation issues such as animal pests, forest clearance and kauri ora.

This is a clear and strong indicator of the paradigm shift in community concern for conservation issues, particularly pest control, and represents a powerful signal for us to continue our work underpinned by social licence.

View the full report on our website:
www.mkm.org.nz

WHANAUNGATANGA | CONNECTION

A key benefit for teams in the Kaimai Mamaku Restoration Project is whanaungatanga.

Through MKMT-led wānanga and other training and development opportunities, our kaimahi have built true friendships across the rohe with whom they share learnings and help in their respective project areas when time-sensitive mahi has to be completed. Throughout the year, the Trust hosted four wānanga for KMRP kaimahi, and one Forum event.



Project Managers Wānanga

Held at Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari, a predator-free eco-sanctuary in the Waikato, this full-day wānanga helped KMRP project managers connect with each other and build their leadership skills.

Leadership and management mentor, Glen Sharkey, led a workshop that looked at common challenges iwi-hapū projects face and strategies to address them. Reuben Araroa, Chief Executive Officer of Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Awa, gave a Te Ao Māori perspective on leadership.

The day concluded with a private tour of Maungatautari where we saw and heard many native taonga. Kaimahi left the day motivated to continue their work toward a pest-free Kaimai Mamaku.



Kauri Ora

In collaboration with Te Papa Atawhai Department of Conservation and Tiakina Kauri, we invited our KMRP tīma to deepen their kauri ora knowledge at a full-day hui at Ngamanawa's Waitaia Lodge.

Consisting of classroom and practical modules, kaimahi learnt more about *Phytophthora agathidicida* (PA) and its lifecycle, the National Pest Management Plan, how mātauranga is being used to protect kauri and practical ways to keep kauri safe while doing their pest control mahi.

Alongside knowledge sharing, kaimahi were able to reconnect with each other through shared kai and kōrero.



Tier 2 Hunting Wānanga

Feral goats, pigs and deer destroy palatable understorey. This stops native trees regenerating, reduces biodiversity and puts our ngahere under threat of collapse.

As a first step to introducing browser control into their work plans, eight kaimahi from the KMRP (Te Kapu O Waitaha, Tapuika Iwi Authority, Te Maire 2021, Ngāti Hauā Iwi Trust and Kaimai Kaponga) came together across three weeks to expand their hunting capabilities.

Led by Lenny Sparks from Cornerstone Conservation and Brad Angus, our very own Project Advisor, this course was a mixture of theory and practical hands-on learning alongside professional contract hunters.

Learning modules included firearms safety and risk management, hunting methodology, animal identification and behaviour, data management, reporting, hunting dog management, and firearms/gear maintenance.

The wānanga was completed with a two-day culling operation, where the ākonga | students removed 18 feral animals from the Kaimai Mamaku.



Kaimai Mamaku Catchment Forum

Ten years before Manaaki Kaimai Mamaku Trust was formed in 2019, the legendary Andrew Baucke, then Department of Conservation Tauranga Area Manager, brought together stakeholders from around the Kaimai Mamaku to discuss ngahere ora.

Commissioned by the Bay of Plenty Regional Council, a State of the Environment Report was published in 2010 and used as the basis for future Kaimai Mamaku Catchment Forum discussions.

The Forum, consisting of stakeholders with an interest in the Kaimai Mamaku, continues to meet annually to discuss ways to improve the health of the ngahere and its catchments.

On 18 July 2023, more than 30 stakeholders met at The Atrium Tauranga and joined online. Topics covered were the lack of visibility of our collective mahi, how we can grow community support and long term funding options for conservation.



Credit: Cam Neate

KAIMAI MAMAKU RESTORATION PROJECTS

30 June 2024 marked three years of operations for most of our co-funded iwi-hapū conservation and restoration projects. In this time, most Kaimai Mamaku Restoration Project (KMRP) tīma had completed their infrastructure installs and implemented data management systems utilising GIS. They are now reaping the rewards.

Some tīma have reported 0% rat density post-bait operations, some have started university studies, and others are hearing more manu in their ngahere.

MKMT's role is to provide project assurance, ongoing support and build capability through budget management, work plans, pest animal/plant control operations, health and safety, data capture and monitoring, and communications.


“

Developing capability, competence and confidence in a professional setting takes about three years. From where they started, to where they are now, the teams have gone through incredible journeys of learning and growth to be effective kaitiaki of te taiao.

Having a fully deployed pest control project is one indicator of their learning, overcoming challenges, and perseverance to achieve a target.”

- LOUISE SAUNDERS



 Owharoa Falls

TE MAHI



Targeting possums,
mustelids and rats



Pest plant control and
restoration planting

NGĀ TAU



503 hectares
across three blocks



6 Kaimahi employed

HAKO RESTORATION PROJECT | NGĀTI HAKO

Hoki atu ki tou maunga Kia purea ai i ngā hau
ō Tawhirmatea. E ngā maunga whakahirahira,
ta-tarehua, Ngā maunga teitei te Rangī Tū
haha o ngā atua.

Return to your Maunga to be purified by the winds of Tawhirimātea. To those lofty and majestic maunga that enshrine and encompass us. The place where the atua called home.


The Kaimai Mamaku holds spiritual, cultural and historical significance to Ngāti Hako as tūpuna lived in and utilised the entire landscape with pā | villages, kāinga | homes and settlements.

The Hako Restoration project focuses on restoring mauri to part of their ancestral lands from Karangahake Gorge through to Waiorongomai Valley through restoration planting, pest animal control and pest plant control across three main areas of the northern Kaimai.

The long-term goals for this project are to reconnect tangata whenua to their land, grow future kaitiaki, and for taonga species to flourish again our Kauri, our kākā, our rātā.

In the 2023/24 financial year, a core focus for the Hako Restoration project was to collect seeds and propagate 78,000 trees in collaboration with the iwi nursery, alongside a focus on project planning and stakeholder engagement. Hako played a critical role in the kauri ora response for iwi and hapū during the July 2023 *Phytophthora agathidicida* scare.



 View of the Waikato from the top of Mt Te Aroha.

TE MAHI



Targeted species: wild ginger, ivy, climbing asparagus, japanese honeysuckle and tradescantia

NGĀ TAU



600 hectares
on Mt Te Aroha



7 Kaimahi employed



9,188 hours

TUMUTUMU KAITIAKI TAIAO | NGĀTI TUMUTUMU

Whaowhia te kete matauranga | **Fill the basket of knowledge.**

Te Aroha maunga is sacred to the people of Ngāti Tumutumu, as well as surrounding iwi, hapū and the wider community.

The long term goal of Tumutumu Kaitiaki Taiao is to restore their sacred whenua to what it previously was, with flourishing native plant and bird life. This conservation project is currently focused on removing and managing pest plants on the western face of Mt Te Aroha, including the walking tracks south towards Waiorongomai Valley and across the summit.

Key outcomes for this year included:

- Partnering with Matamata Piako District Council and Kaimai Valley Services to do native restoration planting on the Te Aroha Domain track, behind the Te Aroha hot pools, a popular spot for locals and tourists alike.
- Built strong relationships with neighbouring iwi and community members, receiving ongoing support and positive feedback about the mahi, with track users saying how the mauri has significantly improved.
- A huge accomplishment for the team was working with Tiakina Kauri to build and divert tracks to mitigate the threat of kauri dieback. Aaron Taylor, Project Manager, says learnings in this space have been invaluable.

Learn more: www.kaimai-mamaku.org.nz/ngati-tumutumu





Kaimai Kauri with Tuahu, a giant kauri.

NGĀ TAU



7 Kaimahi employed



9,665 hours

KAIMAI KAURI | NGĀTI TE WAI

Leading mana whenua kauri protection in the Northern Kaimai Ranges.

Kaimai Kauri predominantly focuses on kauri ora and ambassador work - protecting this taonga from the PA pathogen through monitoring, surveillance and track maintenance.

Part of this work also includes predator control around four existing DOC tracks, focused on reconnecting the community to the ngahere and increasing the social licence for wider pest control activities.

A long-held aspiration for Kaimai Kauri is to increase the capacity and capability of their hapū so they can undertake conservation mahi in their own whenua.

Key outcomes for this year included:

- Hosted a Kauri Ora Mātauranga Māori wānanga with Ngāti Hine, an iwi from the far north who have ample experience with protecting kauri in their whenua.
- Collaborating with agencies and other iwi to tackle track maintenance and mitigation in areas where kauri is present. Completed projects include the Sapphire Springs Track and Wharawhara Track.
- Attending the NZ Biosecurity Awards in Wellington as finalists for their project Te Whakahononga. Te Whakahononga was a partnership between eleven mana whenua research teams and Western scientists working to address the impact of *Phytophthora agathidicida* (PA) and myrtle rust (MR) on taonga.

Learn more: www.kaimai-mamaku.org.nz/kaimai-kauri





Wairere Mahi Project Manager Mohi Korohina.

TE MAHI



Targeting possums,
mustelids and rats

NGĀ TAU



1,029 hectares in the
western area of the Kaimai
Ranges between Wairere Falls
and State Highway 29



8 Kaimahi employed



6,876 hours

WAIRERE MAHI | NGĀTI HINERANGI

Waiho mā te ngākau aroha e arahi i ā tatou hārae whakamua. Kia ū, kia pono ki taiao. Āke, āke, ake! |
Let it be a loving heart that guides us to the future.
Hold fast, stay true to the taiao and its health. Never give up, never give up, never give up!

Wairere Mahi is undertaking targeted pest control to restore the mauri of sacred whenua near the Wairere Falls. This mahi enables whānau to return home and reconnect with te taiao, their whenua and iwi.

Whakapapa, tikanga, mātauranga Māori and the principles of te ao Māori, are instilled throughout their work plans. The tūpuna who walked this whenua before us all, awhi, protect and guide the kaimahi on this journey of environmental restoration.

Capability building and cross-agency relationships are integral to the wider goals of Wairere Mahi, to become intergenerational kaitiaki of their whenua.

Key outcomes for this year included:

- After their first bait-laying operation, with support from Predator Free Matamata, DOC, Tapuika and MKMT; Wairere Mahi recorded a decline in rat density from 70% to 0%, while possum density dropped from 25% to 10%.
- Secured investment from Rayonier Matariki Forests to expand the pest-control project area to Killarney Lakes.
- Collaboration with diverse groups - Iwi, whānau, volunteer groups, kura, business and government agencies working together with shared values. Everyone contributes what they can, working with a shared goal of leaving a positive legacy for the next generation. *Ehara taku toa | te toa takitahi, engari he toa takatini* - My success is not the work of an individual, but the work of many.

Learn more: www.kaimai-mamaku.org.nz/wairere-mahi

WM
WAIRERE mahi



L-R: Ronin Ainsley, Keremeta Bluegum, Melody Cullen, Stuart Cullen, Haamiora Joseph.

TE MAHI



Targeting possums,
mustelids and rats

NGĀ TAU



1,000 hectares
near Aongatete



6 Kaimahi employed



11,765 hours

TE MAIRE 2021 | NGĀI TAMAWHARIUA

Tiakina te wao nui a tane hei oranga mo | **Look after the great forest and it will look after you.**

The vision of Ngāi Tamawhariua is to restore the mauri of their sacred ngahere to benefit all current and future generations. Through pest animal control, Te Maire 2021 aims to restore the populations of taonga species, specifically kereru, kōkako and nesting kākā.

This mahi is intergenerational. There's a desire for tamariki to reconnect with the whenua, and the kōrero and mātauranga of kaumatua helps to shape the pest control programme.

Along with their high-impact environmental outcomes, Te Maire 2021 focuses on increasing the capability of their kaimahi through training and engagement with te Ao Māori and whanaungatanga, at the centre of everything they do.

In the future, the tīma wants to increase their pest-control network by a further 1,000 hectares, continue monitoring impacts, and gain business investment.

Key outcomes for this year included:

- Stuart Cullen, Field Manager, says his highlight of the year was watching the tīma grow in their personal lives. "I've been getting feedback from other family members about how they've changed and become better people. The team go into the bush with a smile, and they come out with a smile".
- The first toxin operation saw rat density decline from 42% to 2%, and possum density decline from 28% to 11%.
- Through formal education, informal mentorships (specifically with Tim Day and MKMT Project Advisor Brad Angus) and on-the-ground trial and error, the team have increased their capability and are now confident enough to adapt work plans to increase pest kills and positive environmental impacts.

Learn more: www.kaimai-mamaku.org.nz/te-maire





L-R: Rob Peake, Rangituaia Walker, Hakaraia Whareaorere.

TE MAHI



Targeting possums,
mustelids and rats



Pest plant control

NGĀ TAU



550 hectares
(planned)



4 Kaimahi employed



4,432 hours

OTAWA WAITAHA A HEI | TE KAPU Ō WAITAHA

Otawa Waitaha a Hei are utilising best-practice ground-based pest animal control methods to protect and restore the mauri of the central section of Ōtanewainuku-Otawa and bring back an abundance of taonga rākau, manu, pekapeka and insects whose populations are in decline due to habitat loss, disease and predation by introduced mammals.

A taonga within their rohe with significant historical value is a mature nīkau | palm stand that tūpuna would harvest for tangihanga | funeral, rongoa | medicine and kai.

Otawa Waitaha a Hei believes working together will bring the best results for te taiao. The tīma continue to grow their kotahitanga | togetherness and working relationships with neighbouring iwi and landowners, with a plan to develop a collective vision they can all work towards.

Key outcomes for this year included:

- The initial 400-ha project area is now fully complete and operational, with trapping lines cut, marked and infrastructure installed. The team can now focus on increasing their project area and moving into the second block. The team have taken these learnings as they install the secondary 150-hectare block.
- Secured co-funding to ensure the project can continue and the nature-positive impacts can continue to grow in breadth and depth.
- Project Manager Rangituaia Walker says her highlight of the year was seeing the team find their “groove”. “Through their theoretical studies, and on-the-ground mahi, the team’s confidence and skill is growing, and it’s beautiful to see. Some of our kaimahi have stepped into natural kaitiakitanga roles, and are teaching the young ones the ropes. I’m so proud of them”.

Learn more: www.kaimai-mamaku.org.nz/te-kapu-o-waitaha





L-R: Shaun Peters, Nikki Rapana, Zaccariah Miakere, Amorangi Apaapa and Whetu Apaapa.
Credit: Came Neate.

TE MAHI



Targeting possums,
mustelids and rats

NGĀ TAU



2,010 hectares
planned



6 Kaimahi employed



7,442 hours

NGĀ MATA HIRINGA | NGAMANAWA

Whatu ngarongaro te tangata toitu te whenua |
As man disappears from sight, the land remains.

Ngā Mata Hiringa focuses on pest animal and wilding pine control on Ngamanawa Inc. land and public conservation land in the Opiaki area, with the aim of increasing biodiversity and restoring taonga species of rākau | trees and manu.

One pest control block surrounds Waitaia Lodge. First opened in 1992, it's a special place that whānau can stay and restore their wairua by reconnecting with each other, the whenua, taonga and te taiao. The newer Ngātuhoa Refugia site connects to the original Opiaki stoat control area, which was established to protect the resident kōkako population.

This mahi is intergenerational, Ngā Mata Hiringa aspire to leave the whenua in a healthier way than they found it. Another key driver for the tīma is to support whānau through job creation, capacity building and cultural safety.

Key outcomes for this year included:

- The team finished installing infrastructure in their original Waitaia and Ngātuhoa blocks (500-ha combined), enabling them to start work on their 300-ha Ngātuhoa expansion area.
- Whetu Apaapa was promoted from Te Taiao Kaimahi to Operations Manager and says the team is cohesive and capable, "we feel more like a whānau than teammates".
- Whetu, Shaun and Nikki, attended the Te Tira Whakamātaki Predator Free hui in Wellington where they connected with other Māori in conservation, and discussed ways to foster indigenous bonds with Aboriginal people through the exchange of possum pelts.

Learn more: www.kaimai-mamaku.org.nz/nga-mata-hiringa





L-R: Sapphire Peake, Tiki Tahana-Worrall, Kataraina Williams-McLean, Raponi Te Rangikatukua Wilson, Richie Emery, Paora McAllister and Rawiri Faulkner.

TE MAHI



Targeting possums,
mustelids and rats

NGĀ TAU



708 hectares planned
in Te Matai Forest



8 Kaimahi employed



9,968 hours

TE WAO NUI O TAPUIKA | TAPUIKA

Titiro whakamuri, kōkiri whakamua
| Walk into the future with our eyes
fixed on the past.

Tūpuna tia | declared the whenua te takapū | the belly of Tapuika. As intergenerational kaitiaki, Tapuika are using mātauranga to restore the mauri of te taiao.

The project area strategically connects vital ecological habitats between Ōtanewainuku and Kaharoa. On 30-June, the tīma had marked, cut and installed pest-control infrastructure in approximately 620-ha of their project area - 24% more than their target! Toward the end of 2024, they will have successfully completed their first toxin operation.

Along with restoring the mauri of their whenua through pest control, the project is focussed on whanaungatanga between neighbouring conservation entities and rōpu | groups. An example of this is the Kōkako Ecosystem Expansion Programme (KEEP) which aims to connect kōkako populations across the Bay of Plenty.

Key outcomes for this year included:

- With the help of ecologist Rebecca Stirnemann, it has been confirmed that long-tailed pekapeka are present in both Te Matai and Mangorewa! The tīma plan to increase their monitoring efforts to identify the specific species that are present, and at what numbers.
- Project kaimahi thoroughly enjoyed leading rangatahi | youth workshops with local kura | schools and social enterprises. The tīma shared their predator-control learnings and cultural insights to inspire future kaitiaki.
- Sapphire Peake, Kaiwhakahaere Hinonga Taiao, says her highlight was attending a Te Tira Whakamātaki kura reo course, focused on mātauranga practices in te taiao. "There is so much more to learn about our world and I am enjoying every step of the journey," she says.

Learn more: www.kaimai-mamaku.org.nz/te-wao-nui-o-tapuika



Monitoring with Kaimai Kaponga.

TE MAHI



Targeting possums,
mustelids and rats

NGĀ TAU



38,000 hectares planned
in the Southern Kaimai
Mamaku range



11 Kaimahi employed



6,675 hours

KAIMAI KAPONGA | TURA NGĀTI TE NGAKAU

Mauri ora ō te ngahere, ka ora te
whenua, ka ora te tāngata.

Kaimai Kaponga focuses on pest animal control to restore the health of the forest while also increasing community and tribal understanding about invertebrates, water and fauna through monitoring.

Te Ao Māori is incorporated in all aspects of this project including hiring of local tāngata whenua, capability building and aspiring to work in ways that align with Te ao Māori principles of kaitiakitanga.

Key outcomes for this year included:

- Collaborated with the BOPRC and MPI National Wallaby Eradication Programme by undertaking night-shooting activities for wallaby on Mount Ngongotaha. This consisted of installing a bait station network (800ha), surveillance, monitoring and ongoing control on the Mamaku Plateau.
- Invertebrate assessments aimed at identifying the presence of important invertebrates required for a healthy ngahere to thrive.
- Community and iwi-hapū engagement to increase tribal understanding of ngahere ora.

Learn more: www.kaimai-mamaku.org.nz/kaimai-kaponga





Project Manager Kataraina George with pēpi and kaimahi Kyle Kiel.

TE MAHI



Targeting possums,
mustelids and rats

NGĀ TAU



1,427 total hectares
across two blocks



4 Kaimahi employed



6,876 hours

TE WHAKAMARU O HOROHORO | NGĀTI KEAROA, NGĀTI TUARA

Kai Horohoro koe e puke whakamana |
'Tis at Horohoro you stand prestigiously.

Te Horohoroinga o ngā ringa o Kahumatamomoe is the sacred maunga of Ngāti Kearoa, Ngāti Tuara that overlooks and protects their whenua. Kaumatua share the kōrero of their tūpuna living, travelling and hunting through the whenua for more than five centuries.

The pest control programme by Te Whakamaru o Horohoro specifically aims to restore the mauri of their ngahere, increase hapū capability and create a safer environment for taonga species by removing pests and predators.

Next year, the tīma are planning to increase their monitoring to confirm the outcomes of their efforts and identify population trends of the taonga species they're working to protect including pekapeka | bat, kākā, kereru and kārearea | falcon, toutouwai | North Island robin.

Key outcomes for this year included:

- Secured co-funding from Bay Trust and Rotorua Trust to continue and expand the pest control programme into 2025.
- In the initial Horohoro block, the tīma have completed their third season of pekapeka monitoring, which identified where these taonga pass and their potential roosting spots. This helped the tīma refine their pest-control programme through focused rodent control and moving traps to high-traffic areas.
- Taking these learnings, the tīma have been able to focus their efforts in the additional Te Paiaka block. Tracks have been cut, marked and infrastructure installed in half of the block (170-ha).
- Developed and nurtured working relationships with neighbouring farmers and landowners, which allows the team to more easily access their project area. These neighbours have also noticed an increase of native bird song.

Learn more: www.kaimai-mamaku.org.nz/horohoro



STAGE ONE PROJECT

Ready for
Investment



TE MĀHURI | NGĀTI HAUĀ

Ko te piko o te māhuri, tērā te tupu o te rākau | *The way in which a sapling is nurtured, that is how the tree will grow.*

This whenua is hugely significant to Ngāti Hauā as it was the place of many historical events including in 1838 when Ngāti Hauā carried an ill Te Waharoa from Tauranga, across the Kaimai, to be laid to rest at his home in Matamata. They stopped at the Waitioko River, which flows in the forest between Wairere and Waipapa, to give Te Waharoa a drink of its sweet waters. This revived him for a while and Te Waharoa declared the stream his own.

Te Wairere also overlooks papakainga and sacred burial grounds, and is professed to be near the resting place of Te Waharoa's renowned son, Wiremu Tamehana.

The project name "Te Māhuri" translates to "The Seedling" which speaks to their vision of restoring and protecting the mauri of the Kaimai forest through pest eradication and monitoring.

In the 2023/24 financial year, the core focus for Te Māhuri was building relationships with neighbouring iwi within the KMRP, and capability building. Field Operations Manager, Makoha Pene, also completed the Tier 2 hunting wānanga, so the team can now consider adding browser control to their project plan.

Learn more: www.kaimai-mamaku.org.nz/te-mahuri

TE MAHI



Predator control
and monitoring



600 hectares in the western
area of the Kaimai Ranges

STAGE ONE PROJECT

Ready for
Investment



MANGOREWA-KAHAROA RESTORATION PROJECT | NGĀTI RANGIWEWEHI

The Mangorewa-Kaharoa Forest was once a coveted location for bird-snaring and spearing of kākā, while the Mangorewa Stream and wetland was well-known for its tuna | eel populations. These resources were key to the ongoing survival of the people of Ngāti Rangiwewehi.

Today, despite the disruption from pest species as well as major land use change in the surrounding area, it is believed a remnant kiwi population and other taonga species may survive.

In the 2023/24 financial year, Ngāti Rangiwewehi completed a project plan, detailing how they will protect these taonga species and restore the mauri of their sacred whenua.

Learn more: www.kaimai-mamaku.org.nz/mangorewa-kaharoa

TE MAHI



Wetland and native
forest restoration

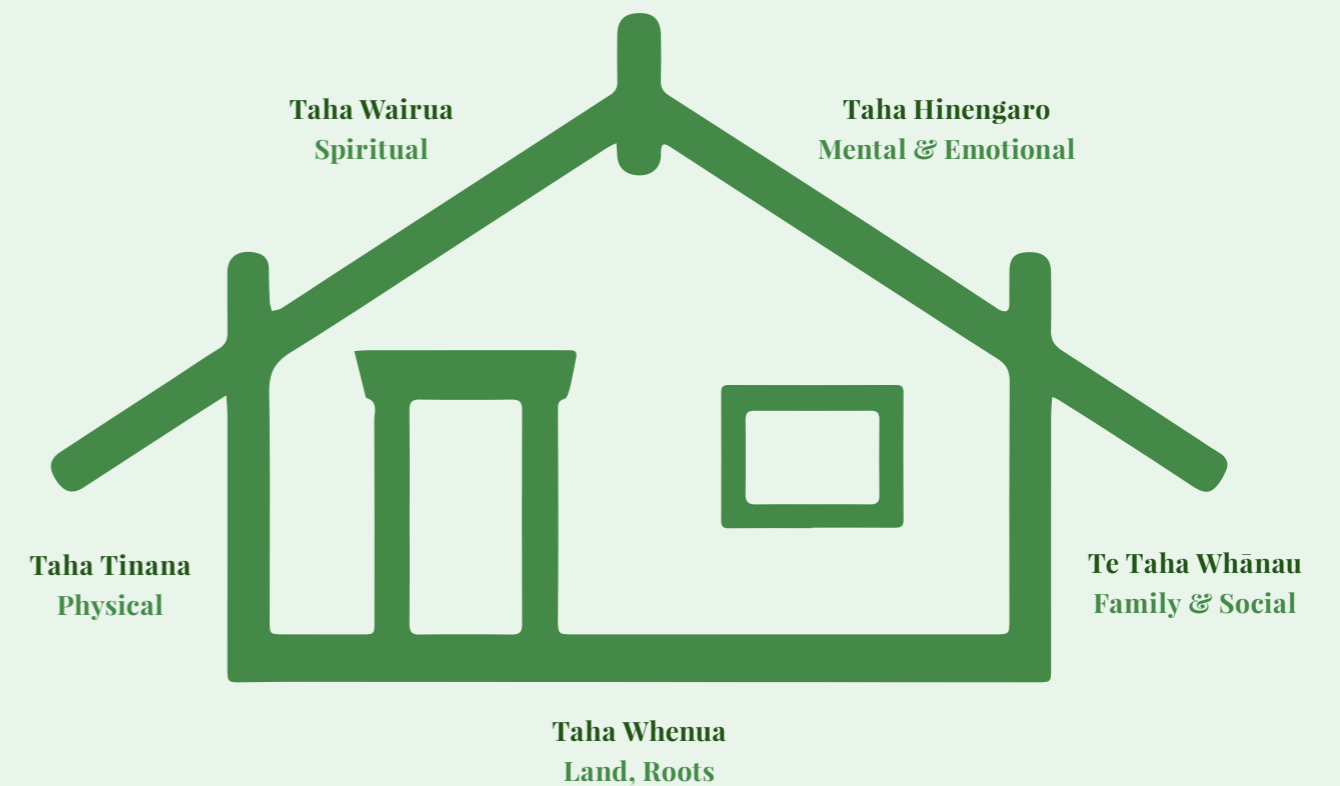


825 hectares
across two blocks

HAUORA | HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The main aim, and impact, of the Kaimai Mamaku Restoration Project is restoration of te taiao. However, on-the-ground kaimahi continue to report significant improvements in their health and wellbeing.

Te Whare Tapa Whā is a concept that describes health and wellbeing as a whareniui | meeting house with four cornerstones, or walls. When the entire whareniui is in balance, we thrive.



Te Whare Tapa Whā

Taha Wairua Spiritual

Kaimahi have reconnected with whenua and traditional mātauranga directly from the iwi-hapū they whakapapa to. Kaimahi regularly say that this mahi gives them a deeper connection to their tūpuna | ancestors.

Taha Hinengaro Mental & Emotional

Some kaimahi left previous employment where they had little fulfilment and/or felt

culturally unsafe. This mahi provides daily opportunities for kaimahi to practise tikanga and have a direct impact on future generations.

Taha Tinana Physical

Every day, kaimahi hike around 10km through dense bush with 12-40kg backpacks. Some project teams also have goals to drop unhealthy habits, like smoking, to enhance their physical capabilities. Health and safety plans include

tikanga and are developed with Samson Safety.

Te Taha Whānau Family & Social

Working in the ngahere can be solitary work but our kaimahi have built strong connections with their direct tīma and with other KMRP teams.

Taha Whenua Land, Roots

Almost 90% of kaimahi whakapapa to the whenua they work on.

TĪMA | TEAM

We are proud to be a co-governed entity with six Māori trustees and five community trustees who represent the Kaimai Mamaku catchment forum, the Māori caucus of the forum, Ngā Iwi Tōpū and the community.



Pictured (L-R)

Back: James Whetu (Māori Trustee Ngāti Hinerangi/Ngāti Hauā/Ngāti Raukawa), Co-chair Norm Bruning, Louise Saunders (CEO), Stu Kneebone (Community Trustee Waikato), Kate Graeme (Community Trustee Bay of Plenty), Brad Angus (Projects Advisor).

Front: Co-chair Josie Anderson (Māori Trustee Hauraki), Rebecca Lee (Communications Manager), Mawera Karetai (Māori Trustee, Mata Waka Independent), Fleur Sweeney (Administrator), Dani Guy (Restoration Projects Coordinator).

Not pictured: Trustees: Kevin Palmer, Te Poari Newton, Peri Mason and Shaun Hodson. Engagement Facilitator: Meschka Seifritz

HE WAKA EKA NOA

Ngā mihi nui to the funders, partners and supporters of the Kaimai Mamaku Restoration Project.

FUNDERS



PARTNERS



SUPPORTERS

Andrienne Pitts	Our Place Magazine
Aongatete Forest Project	Ōtanewainuku Kiwi Trust
Bay Conservation Alliance	Piako Waihou Catchment Trust
Cam Neate	Port of Tauranga
EnviroHub	Predator Free Matamata
Forest and Bird	Predator Free New Zealand
Friends of the Blade	Project Parore
GoECO	Raukūmara Pae Maunga Restoration Project
HELP Waihi	Rotorua Lakes Council
Kaimai Ridgeway Trust	Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari
Kiri Reihana	Tauranga Moana Biosecurity Capital
Lund Road Care Group	Te Whakakaha Trust
Matamata Piako District Council	Tīwaiwaka
Mokaihaha Kokako Trust	Waikato Biodiversity Forum
Ngā Whenua Rāhui	Waitao Streamcare Group
NZ Deerstalkers Association	Western Bay of Plenty Regional Council
NZ Landcare Trust	Wingspan Bird's of Prey Trust

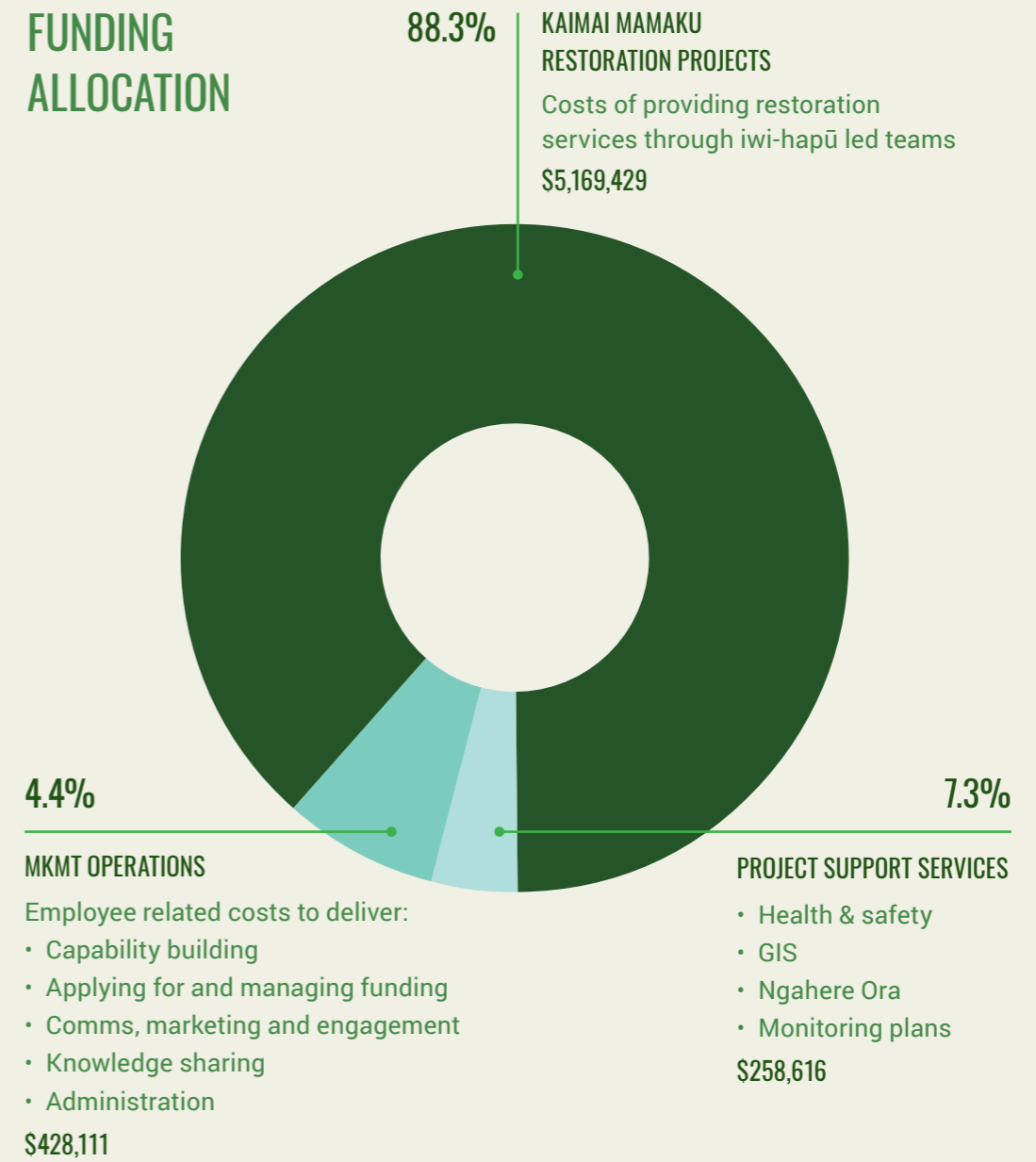


Credit: Simon Pierce / naturetripper.com

KO NGĀ TAUĀKĪ PŪTEA | FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

In 2024 we received \$5.9M of funding and almost 90% went directly to restoring the mauri of the Kaimai Mamaku through iwi and hapū-led Kaimai Mamaku Restoration Projects.

FUNDING ALLOCATION



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

'How was it funded?' and 'What did it cost?'

	\$	\$
REVENUE	2024	2023
Grants, donations, fundraising and other similar revenue	5,856,156	5,983,204
Interest, dividends and other investment revenue	76,148	28,518
Total Revenue	5,932,304	6,011,722
EXPENSES		
Volunteer and employee related costs	428,111	346,829
Costs related to providing goods or service	5,169,429	5,400,473
Other Expenses	258,616	235,902
Total Expenses	5,856,156	5,983,204
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	76,148	28,518

The full financial statements and auditors report can be found at www.mkm.org.nz

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 30 JUNE 2024

'What the entity owns?' and 'What the entity owes?'

	\$	\$
ASSETS	30 JUNE 2024	30 JUNE 2024
Current Assets		
Bank accounts and cash	3,345,120	3,225,400
Debtors and prepayments	27,672	185,779
Other Current Assets	34	34
Total Current Assets	3,372,825	3,411,212
Non-Current Assets		
Property, Plant and Equipment	39,911	54,791
Total Non-Current Assets	39,911	54,791
Total Assets	3,412,736	3,466,003
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Creditors and accrued expenses	386,506	3,225,400
Other current liabilities	6,631	185,779
Unused donations and grants with conditions	2,896,475	2,941,686
Total Current Liability	3,289,612	3,414,511
Non-Current Liabilities		
Vehicle Finance	17,941	22,458
Total Non-Current Liabilities	17,941	22,458
Total Liabilities	3,307,553	3,436,969
TOTAL ASSETS LESS TOTAL LIABILITIES (NET ASSETS)		
Accumulated Funds		
Accumulated surpluses or (deficits)	105,182	29,035
Total Accumulated Funds	105,182	29,035

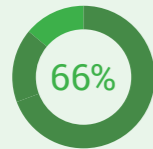
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LOOKING AHEAD

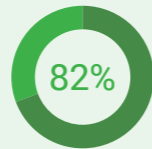
Sustainable Funding

The KMRP has achieved significant gains for conservation and communities in the three years since the first projects were established. However, without sustainable sources of funding, the benefits for people and te taiao will be rapidly lost. Government funding is decreasing and grants available from Councils and philanthropy cannot keep pace with funding needs. The conservation funding model needs to be re-thought with businesses playing an integral role.

SURVEYS SHOW



66% of Kiwi's think businesses are not doing enough to reduce environmental impacts.



82% of businesses want to do the right thing for nature.

In the 2024/25 financial year, we are going to meet both of these needs by providing businesses with a transparent way to invest directly into impactful local conservation projects. This will provide businesses with a mechanism for fulfilling staff, stakeholder and consumer expectations, meeting fiduciary responsibilities and managing nature-related risks and dependencies.

Maintain and Expand Project Impact

Our top priority is to continue, and expand, the Kaimai Mamaku Restoration Project's conservation efforts.

Four projects are already working on their expansion plans, and we have already confirmed a second round of focused eDNA monitoring funded by the Environmental Protection Authority NZ that will provide further insights into Kaimai Mamaku biodiversity and the impact of intensive pest control.

More Data and Monitoring

KMRP tīma will complete, and begin delivering, biodiversity monitoring plans. This will increase the information available to help project teams make informed management decisions about their pest control methods and networks.

Biodiversity monitoring, using both western science and mātauranga, will demonstrate the impacts of pest control on the taonga species our teams are working to protect, and show the positive impacts of financial investments.



Credit: Samuel Maris



CONNECT WITH US

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